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26 September, 1989

For immediate release:

FILLINGER WINNING AGAIN

CEDARVILLE, OHIO -- Mason resident Eric Fillinger has continued his torrid pace for the Cedarville College (OH) cross country team. The two-time NAIA All-American began his final season with two victories in three outings to run his career victory total to 13. Eric, who is a graduate of Irondequoit (NY) High School, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Fillinger who now reside in Mason.

Fillinger recently won the Manchester (IN) College Invitational for the second straight time by covering the 8,000 meters in 25:27. He opened the year by winning the Bellarmine Invitational in Louisville, Ky. Eric finished 13th of 293 runners at the Midwest Collegiate Classic in Kenosha, Wis.

"Eric is not yet up to top form," stated Cedarville coach Elvin King, who is in his 21st season at the school. "He wasn't able to get in the mileage he needed during the summer, plus he's had a couple of nagging injuries. We still expect great things from him this season."

Fillinger is the two-time defending National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) national champion. He will gun for an unprecedented third straight title when Cedarville hosts the national meet on Nov. 11.

Eric was presented the coveted Wheeler Award last fall following the NCCAA meet. It is symbolic of the outstanding Christian male cross country runner from the NCCAA.

"Eric is easily the best runner we've ever had at Cedarville," King added. "He is a model of what every student-athlete should be. He is a leader both on and off the course."

Fillinger is an NAIA All-American in both outdoor and indoor track, plus is an NCCAA track All-American as well. Eric was named Cedarville's male Athlete of the Year for 1988-89 by the school's Yellow Jacket Club.

Cedarville is a Baptist liberal arts college located in southwestern Ohio, 25 miles east of Dayton. The school has an enrollment of approximately 1,900 students.

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